THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The procurement of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) and wheat during the current 1992-93 kharif marketing season and 1993-94 rabi marketing season respectively has reached the highest level achieved so far.

(b) A total quantity of 130·24 lakh tonnes of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) has been procured in the country as on 23rd July, 1993 during 1992-93 kharif marketing a season which includes a quantity of 12·50 lakh tonnes of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) procured by Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, which do not contribute rice for the central pool.

Procurement of wheat during 1992-93 rabi marketing season was 63·80 lakh tonnes. However, a total quantity of 128·29 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured during the current 1993-94 rabi marketing season as on 23rd July, 1993.

(c) and (d) No decision has yet been taken by the Government to export wheat and rice from Government stocks during the year 1993-94.

Licences issued for opening of New Sugar Mills

706. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have since decided to issue licences to 69 sugar mills in the country during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) if so, the break-up of these sagar factories, State-wise; and

(c) by when the decision is likely to be taken to open new sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) The letters of Intent for setting up of new sugar factories are issued by the Ministry of Industry on the basis of recommendations of screening committee/Licensing Committee keeping the financial and technical viability of the projects and the Liencensing Policy Guidelines. In view of this the exact number of new sugar mills to be licensed during the Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise, would be known only after the secrutiny of the applications by the said committees.

(c) After the screening process is complete, the recommendations will be considered by the Licensing Committee in the Ministry of Industry for issuance of letter of intent/licences, to open new sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh.

Regular audit in the godowns of F.C.I.

707. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether audits are carried out regularly in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India.

(b) if so, the number of times these were carried out during the last three years, godown-wise;

(c) the drawbacks pointed out in the audit reports and the remedial action taken thereon;

(d) the extent of loss suffered by the Food Corporation of India during each of the last three years; and

(e) the reasons therefor and the steps taken to minimise the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) Food Corporation of India have reported

that the audits of depots are, by and large, carried out by Internal Audit Division of the Corporation as per the cycle prescribed by the Internal Audit Manual.

(b) A statement containing this number of times the depots were audted during the years 1991, 1992 and 1993 is attached as Annexure-I *See* Appendix (CLXVIII, Annexure No. 11)

(c) The draw backs pointed out in the reports generally fall under the categories indicated in enclosed Statement (*See* below).

The audit reports are sent to the District Managers etc: for taking remedial/corrective action. The remedial action that are generally taken are of by the following nature:

(i) In case of wrong payments/ excess payments, recoveries are effected by the unit office concerned.

(ii) Serious observations are followed by the Vigilance Division to fix up the responsibilities on the delinquent officials/officers and disciplinary action taken wherever necessary.

(iii) Steps are taken to take suitable remedial measures in case of procedural lapses.

(d) The extent of storage losses suffered by the Food Corporation of India during the last three years are as under:

S. No.	Year	Amount of loss
		Rs. crores
1.	1988-89 . .	34.15
2.	1989-90 . .	20.28
3.	1990-91 . .	45.71

(e) The storage losses occur mainly due to the following reasons:

(i) loss in moisture during storage;

(ii) rodents and birds trouble in Storage;

(iii) high metabolic rate during storage;

(iv) long period of storage;

(v) use of iron hooks by handling labourers resulting in difficulty for retrieving spillages;

(vi) multiple handling of bags;

(vii) CAP storage under adverse climatic conditions.

A number of steps are being taken to minimise the losses, the eminent being:

(i) installation of weighbridges in godowns;

(ii) reducing CAP storage;

(iii) regular physical verification of stocks;

(iv) ensuring up-to date maintenance of depot records;

(v) vigorous squad checkings of foodgrains at depots;

(vi) immediate follow up action on squad reports;

(vii) imposition of penalties on the erring staff; and

(viii) deployment of CISF in vulnerable depots.

Statement

Broad categories of I.A. observations pertaining to godowns

1. Suspected misappropriation of

2. Suspected misappropriation of foodgrains/fertilisers/sugar and other stores.

3. Thefts/pilferages of stores.

4. Excess payments to :

   (a) Contractors/private parties
   (b) Railways (on account of freight, etc.)
   (c) Govt. departments/agencies.
   (d) Corporation employees.

5. Recoveries due from defaulting contractors on account of:

   (a) Work executed at their risk and cost.
   (b) For other reasons/defaults.

6. Abnormal losses in :

   (a) Storage.
   (b) Transit.

7. Irregularities in awarding contracts.

   (a) Handling and Transport contracts.

8. Irregularities in obtaining and processing securities e.g.,

   (a) Securities not obtained or deducted from payments.
   (b) Non-execution of FCI Policy Renewal.

9. Irregular, unauthorised and avoidable expenditure.

10. Infractuous expenditure on account of :

    (a) Non-utilisation of godowns/weigh-bridges.

11. Avoidable payments, demurrage/wharfage charges to railways.

12. Grains damaged due to careless handling and storage.

13. Delay in raising bills.

14. Late deposit of cheques/Deposit at Call Receipts in banks and their late credit by the banks to the Corporation.

15 Surplus gunnies not received back in time from State Agencies storing Agents/Corporation employees.

16. Exccessive inventory.

17. Obsolete surplus and unserviceable stock awaiting disposal.

18. Non-utilisation under-utilisation of storage capacity.

19. Procedural irregularities not involving any recovery.

20. Delay in recovery of FIC's dues from Railways.

21. Delay in recovery of FCI's dues from Govt./Private parties.

उत्तर प्रदेश में चीनी मिलों को सहायता

708. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव :** : क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार चीनी विकास निधि के माध्यम से उत्तर प्रदेश में स्थित चीनी मिलों को कोई सहायता प्रदान कर रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उत्तर प्रदेश में पिछले दो वर्षों में किन-किन चीनी मिलों में आधुनिकीकरण और पुनर्वास का कार्य किया गया था ; और

(ग) उत्तर प्रदेश में आगामी वर्ष में चीनी विकास निधि की सहायता से किन-किन चीनी मिलों के विकास का कार्य शुरू किया जाएगा ?

खाद्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कल्प नाथ राय) : (क) जी, हां ।